



BURIEN CITY COUNCIL  
**ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT - NOTES**  
Saturday, 24 January 2015

Attended: Mayor Lucy Krakowiak; Deputy Mayor Nancy Tosta; Councilmembers Steve Armstrong, Lauren Berkowitz, Bob Edgar, Jerry Robinson, Debi Wagner; City Manager Kamuron Gurol; & Facilitator Jim Reid.

**BURIEN CITY COUNCIL AGREES ON SEVEN PRIORITIES FOR 2015 - 2016**

- Economic development
- Public safety
- Community engagement
- Homelessness
- Animal issues
- Regional Partnerships

During the discussion, Council members expressed these interests:

- Be proactive in shaping our Burien's future.
- Intentionally build financial, social, environmental, and community wealth.
- Communicate even more effectively with residents and businesses.
- Strengthen citizen involvement.
- Work effectively with one another and the staff.

The Burien City Council Retreat was held on January 24, 2015 at the Burien Community Center from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Several residents at any point attended portions of the meeting. No public comment was taken.

The meeting was facilitated by Jim Reid and City Manager Kamuron Gurol attended as the staff resource. The agenda was divided in to two major components. First, identifying Key Priorities to guide staff work in 2015 and 2016, and second discussing the Council's list of Future Agenda Items. The first component was completed a little early in the day, so discussion of the second component began before lunch. The meeting concluded at the schedule time of 3:30pm.

The following are notes from the flip charts developed through the day.

## **MORE DETAIL ON 2015 – 2016 KEY PRIORITIES**

This section of the retreat summary provides the Council's more detailed definition of each priority and of the action steps needed to advance them.

### **• Economic Development**

(It was noted that the Council was scheduled to discuss and develop priority actions for economic development on January 26. The following list of bullet points reflected the Council's discussion as of January 24.)

Potential components:

- Improve Burien's image through branding and marketing.
- Promote a positive business climate.
- Ensure that Burien has a strong workforce and sustainable people.
- Address the Northeast Redevelopment Area (NERA).
- Continue to encourage the development of downtown and the construction of a hotel.
- Address impediments to development and economic growth.
- Address the impacts of the airport on the community.
- Continue to expand arts and cultural opportunities.
- Attract more restaurants.
- Leverage partnerships with the business community, citizens, and other governmental entities to expand economic opportunity.
- Make Burien a "walkable" city.
- Expand transit throughout the community.
- Ensure the operations and maintenance of public facilities.
- Work to achieve environment sustainability (climate neutral).
- Community wealth

### **• Public Safety**

Potential components:

- Reduce the number of broken windows in downtown businesses.
- Address "squatting" in vacant or abandoned houses.
- Reduce gang activity.
- Address fireworks, particularly to minimize fireworks from going off in neighborhoods at times other than appropriate occasions, such as the Fourth of July.
- Address sales of fortified alcohol.
- Increase the number of patrol officers on foot and bicycles.
- Expand neighborhood block watch efforts so that citizens do more to watch out for each other.
- Examine code violations such as people sleeping in cars to determine if such violations are public safety issues.

- **Community engagement**

(It was noted that a draft Community Engagement Plan was presented in fall 2014, and a proposed Final plan will be presented by Q2 2015.)

Potential components:

- Strengthen relationships, communication, and transparency between the seven City Council members, between the Council and staff, and between the City and citizenry.
- Ensure that the membership of the City's advisory boards and commissions reflects the diversity of the community.
- Build stronger relationships with various community organizations and neighborhoods with, perhaps, the assistance of groups such as Global to Local.
- Develop comprehensive neighborhood plans.
- Reach out to leaders of block watch organizations to have them help identify potential future members of the City's advisory boards and commissions.
- Consider establishing Council districts for electing City Council members.
- Consider the use of task forces in appropriate circumstances that would be led by Council members and would involve minimum staff effort. Examine best practices to ensure that the line between elected officials and staff is not blurred.

- **Homelessness**

(It was noted that based on the Council's previous direction, City staff is working with representatives of the Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington to produce a "road map" for addressing homelessness in the community. An initial report will be presented on February 23. )

Potential components:

- Consider engaging banks, a store such as Lowes or Sears, and high school students to fix up a vacant home to sell to a low-income family or person. The feasibility of this idea could be researched by the Evans School students that the City has already engaged.
- Examine the City's ordinances, zoning and the Building Code to determine if they are impeding the provision of housing to homeless people. (Look at the Code through the eyes of homeless people.) Seattle University Law students may be of assistance with this examination.
- Elevate the conversation about homelessness to the regional level, particularly across South King County. While there may be ways we can act locally to reduce homelessness, the issue of homelessness, as well as services provided to homeless people, are regional, statewide, and national issues.

- **Animal issues**

(It was noted that the city contract with CARES runs through mid-2016. Options at this time appear to be: a) Renew the CARES contract and amend as needed, or b) Contract with King County for animal control services. Staff is investigating additional service options for cats. Also, the Council started, but did not complete, a review of zoning code amendments regarding the keeping of animals.)

Potential components:

- Examine what comparable cities provide in terms of services and the costs they pay for them.
- Consider regulations to protect animals in public spaces, such as parks, and in personal vehicles during hot weather, and the level of enforcement of existing regulations.

- **Regional Partnerships**

(It was noted that staff will work with the Port of Seattle regarding the SeaTac Airport Sustainable Airport Master Plan that is underway, and will report back to the Council.)

Potential components:

- Effectively serve the interests, needs, and concerns of Burien citizens by serving on regional committees.
- Build, strengthen, and leverage partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies.
- Continue to work with the Port of Seattle and cities adjacent and near to SeaTac Airport to address the impacts of the airport on surrounding communities.
- Coordinate with local and state entities and agencies on Burien's and South King County's infrastructure needs.

- **Make Informed Decisions**

Potential components:

- Learn from others, particularly comparable cities.
- Work effectively with the City's boards and commissions. Task them with citizen interaction and have them report back with research and recommendations.
- Reduce legal liability.

## **DISCUSSION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

In the afternoon the Council reviewed the current list of Future Agenda Items. The Council considered these criteria in discussing the list:

- Consistent with 2015-'16 priorities
- Resources and time required
- Community survey results
- Aligns with 2015-'16 budget
- Has been done elsewhere in comparable cities.

Council members then ranked the Future Agenda Items as High, Medium and Low Priority for 2015-2016. The four that ranked High will be addressed in 2015. The other seven, which the Council ranked either Medium or Low, will be addressed later this year and/or in 2016 as time and resources allow. In some cases, staff may bring to Council a work plan for approval before initiating work, while in other cases staff will periodically report on progress.

### **High Priorities:**

- Work with the City's advisory boards and commissions to actively engage them in helping to advance the Council's priorities.
  - Clarify their roles and responsibilities, including any legal mandates, and how they work with the Council.
  - Review the job descriptions of the members of the boards and commissions.
  - Look at how comparable cities use their boards and commissions and how their City Councils engage with them.
  - Assess "best practices" for ad hoc task forces should the City want to consider using that forum in the future.
- Report on significant tree retention policies.
  - In February or March staff will report to Council on the staff's findings regarding heritage tree preservation based on previous Council direction.
  - Consider how the City can balance environmental and economic interests in policies to protect significant trees.
  - Integrate tree replacement rationale and canopy coverage in the consideration and development of any new rules and regulations to protect, preserve, and maintain significant trees.
  - Delegate this work to the City Planning Commission to make recommendations to Council. The Council authorized the Planning Commission to embark on this effort after it completes its mandatory work for 2015.
- Discuss imposing term limits for the City Council.
- Follow-up on animal control issues.

**Medium Priorities:**

- Discuss a community recreation center.
- Discuss garbage service for businesses.
  - What are the options by which the community can achieve cleaner streets and alleyways while reducing solid waste?
  - What are the economic development, environmental, public health, public safety, community image, and fairness/equity issues and interests at stake in the options?
  - Is mandatory garbage collection an option? What are the other options to achieve our interests and goals? Should it be voluntary with added incentives for recycling?
  - This work could be assigned to the BEDP to make recommendations to present to Council.
- Discuss developing a youth council.
- Discuss banning plastic bags.

**Low Priorities:**

- Discuss Wi-Fi service in common areas.
- Discuss requesting the State of Washington to conduct an in-depth study of the effects of toxic materials from SeaTac Airport and the aircraft that arrive at and depart from it.
- Discuss establishing multiple rates within the Business and Occupation (B&O) Tax according to different sizes or types of businesses.